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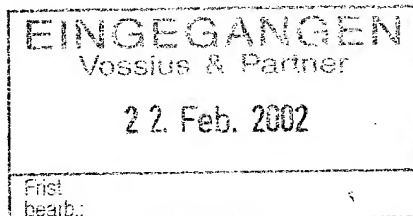
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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Proprietor/Titulaire

Sumitomo Chemical Company, Limited

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: NONE

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
P,X	EP 1 065 693 A (SUMITOMO CHEMICAL CO) 3 January 2001 (2001-01-03) * paragraph '0016! - paragraph '0021!; examples 1,5 *	1,7-9	C01G23/00
X,D	EP 0 666 239 A (SUMITOMO CHEMICAL CO) 9 August 1995 (1995-08-09) * page 3, line 20 - line 23 * * page 3, line 50 - page 4, line 22 * * page 6, line 14 - line 19 * * page 6, line 31 - line 49 * * page 6, line 53 - page 7, line 13; claims 24-34; example 1 *	1,2,7	
X,D	EP 0 714 850 A (SUMITOMO CHEMICAL CO) 5 June 1996 (1996-06-05) * page 2, line 55 - line 59 * * page 3, line 10 - page 5, line 6 * * page 6, line 20 - line 21 * * page 6, line 41 - line 43 * * page 7, line 20 - line 22 * * page 8, line 1 - line 34; claims 1-7 *	1-3,6-9	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			C01G C01B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>14 February 2002</b>	Examiner <b>Siebel, E</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 12 4238

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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14-02-2002

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